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Medical Clippings

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oping a new idea in hospitalization, General Grant revealed—the use of the hospitals as schools for convalescents. The patients, when recovering, are given interesting studies and light exercises under instructors, the work depending on the patient's degree of recovery.

At present, he stated, Air Force physicians are using the school

idea to train men who are temporarily invalidated by illness from the regular air training course. This treatment fills in valuable hours with courses pertinent to their training and also has reduced the number of men who had to return to the hospital because resumption of training jarred them into a relapse.—*New York Times*.

MEDICAL CLIPPINGS

ANTI-INFLUENZA WEAPON—Inhalation of immune serum sprayed from an atomizer may be of use against influenza before and after an attack. So says Commander Albert P. Kueger, at the University of California, director of the Naval Laboratory Research Unit No. 1. Treatment with the immune serum was effective in mice when given as long as forty-eight hours after the mice got influenza. Repeated treatments twenty-four hours apart were significantly more effective than one treatment.

NEW SULFA DRUG—Phthalsulfathiazole has been introduced by Dr. Edgar J. Poth and Dr. Charles A. Ross (University of Texas Medical School) to the Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. It promises to be a more potent weapon against intestinal infections, such as dysentery, than other sulfa drugs. It has two to four times the germ-checking power of succinylsulfathiazole. Doses by

mouth at four-hour intervals have not caused any toxic symptoms in dog or man.

NEW PREGNANCY TEST—A new pregnancy test that works with 97 per cent accuracy was demonstrated by Drs. Udall J. Salmon, Samuel H. Geist, Charles S. Poole and A. Austin Salmon of Mount Sinai Hospital, New York City, at last week's meeting of the New York State Medical Society. Older pregnancy tests required from forty-eight to ninety-six hours; this one only two hours. The new test is made with rats instead of rabbits, since the latter now bring \$3.50 because they are wanted for meat. Rats cost only 40 to 60 cents apiece, and there is no shortage. In the test the urine of a pregnant woman is injected into an infant rat. The blood vessels in the rat's ovaries enlarge within two hours. The new test has been used in 948 cases.—*New York Times*.